

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 13004 211639Z
ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T PARIS 13004

EXDIS

E.O.11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: MNUC TECH ENRG FR PK
SUBJ: PAKISTAN REPROCESSING ISSUE

REF: (A) STATE 101528; (B) PARIS 11907; (C) STATE
91983; (D) PARIS 10913

1. IN OUR OPINION, GISCARD WOULD BE SIGNIFICANTLY
HELPED TOWARD DECIDING TO CANCEL THE PLANT IF HE
BELIEVED THAT A PROGRAM OF ALTERNATE ACTIVITIES, SUCH
AS THE FRENCH-US PROGRAM OUTLINED IN PARA 1C OF REF C,
OFFERED A FAIR PROBABILITY THAT THE GOP WOULD DECIDE
NOT TO CONTINUE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PLANT AND THAT THE
ALTERNATE ACTIVITIES WOULD REQUIRE CONTINUED FRENCH AND
US INVOLVEMENT-RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN.

2. THE FRENCH (JACOMET VOICING HIS OPINION) BELIEVE
THAT THE PAKS COULD FINISH SOME FORM OF A REPROCESSING
PLANT WITHIN A FEW YEARS OF THE ORIGINAL COMPLETION DATE
IF THE FRENCH GET OUT NOW; TWO ON-SITE FRENCH ENGINEERS
MAKE UP CURRENT FRENCH ASSISTANCE, ACCORDING TO JACOMET;
AND HE REPORTS THAT THE PLANT IS BEING BUILT ACCORDING
TO SPECIFICATIONS, ALTHOUGH SEVERAL MONTHS BEHIND THE
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ORIGINAL SCHEDULE. THUS, REASONS JACOMET, IF THE GOF
CANCELS AND THE GOP CONTINUES, OPERATION OF SOME FORM
OF PLANT WITHOUT CONTROLS WOULD BE A SERIOUS LOSS FOR
NON-PROLIFERATION OBJECTIVES. FRANCE WOULD BE OUT OF
PAKISTAN AND SUFFER SOME CREDIBILITY LOSS WITH OTHER
PROSPECTIVE NUCLEAR HARDWARE CUSTOMERS: CANCELLATION
COULD RESULT IN NO WINS AND SEVERAL LOSSES.

3. DURING NYE'S BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF A POSSIBLE US-FRENCH ALTERNATE PLAN ON MARCH 31 TO JACOMET (REF D), JACOMET APPEARED INTERESTED IN FOLLOWING THIS ASPECT FURTHER. WE ASSUME HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO DEVOTE CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION TO THIS ASPECT IN HIS "OPTIONS PAPER" REPORT TO GISCARD WHICH HE MAY BE PREPARING IN THE NEXT TWO OR THREE WEEKS.

4. IF DEPARTMENT AGREES AND WOULD PROVIDE US WITH FURTHER SPECIFICS ON TACTICS AND POSSIBLE INDUCEMENTS, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE A MOVE WELCOMED BY THE FRENCH AND HELPFUL TO USG OBJECTIVES TO DISCUSS NOW WITH JACOMET AND OTHERS AT THE MFA THE GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF SUCH TACTICS AND POSSIBLE INDUCEMENTS. WE WOULD EXPECT THEM TO STUDY THE MATTER FOR A FEW DAYS AND THEN ASK FURTHER QUESTIONS SO THAT THE "OPTIONS PAPER" FOR GISCARD WOULD HAVE ALL GOF INTERESTS COVERED. THIS SCENARIO COULD LEAD TO THE FRENCH ASKING FOR FIRM USG COMMITMENTS PRIOR TO GISCARD MAKING HIS DECISION PUBLICLY KNOWN. IT MAY ALSO BE USEFUL TO MAKE THE PAKISTAN REPROCESSING PLANT SUBJECT AN AGENDA ITEM FOR THE POSSIBLE GISCARD-CARTER TELECON (OR MEETING) IN THE US IN LATE MAY, URGING THAT THE MFA "OPTIONS PAPER" BE IN GISCARD'S HANDS WELL IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING.

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